

Sequachee Valley News.

VOL. XXVI.

SEQUACHEE, TENN., THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1919

NO. 50

PITILESS PUBLICITY ON PITILESS PUBLICITY

By CAPT. ARCHIBALD ROOSEVELT
In Everybody's Magazine

To make an expedition into hostile line and to lie on the half frozen, half muddy ground for several hours during a cold November night, men must be comfortably clothed and well shod. In my records I find no allusion to an issue of clothing to our company (B Company of the 25th Infantry), except a few French socks, from August, 1917, to November, and during that time we had been thru a long period of hard maneuvers and front line work in the trenches—work ruinous to clothing and footwear.

Bought Gloves For His Men

Leggins, suits and shoes were almost entirely worn out, and we had never been issued any gloves at all. So out of second lieutenant's pay I was forced to advance to the men enough money to buy their leggins and gloves from the French shops; and the quality of our men may be judged when I say, without any obligation of any sort, every man paid me back from his own pocket after the paymaster came around on one of his rare visits. The richest nation in the world made men who had offered their lives for its services pay from their own pockets for the clothes to keep them from freezing to death on the firing line.

That winter was an unusually severe one, and the climatic differences between the two countries would have made it difficult for even well-clad, well-fed men to withstand the French winter. Just imagine our situation with insufficient food and clothing. There was scarcely one day from the 15th of November up to the 25th of January that any of our companies drew their full quota of rations. Many a time have our animals gone entirely without rations for several days. I can well remember when Le Boeuf and I dragged between us a huge sack of stolen oats up an enormous hill and over a shell-swept area, so that our mules might have strength enough to drag our rolling kitchen and our provision wagons.

"Pitiless Publicity" For Bread.

One of the great necessities for men in a cold climate is meat and plenty of it. Yet often we went without meat, and as Sergeant Owens, my mess sergeant, pathetically remarked to me: "Captain, we get almost no beef except the front quarters. Do you think that all the cattle of the United States have ceased growing hind quarters?"

Ask a butcher the difference in weight and quality between the front quarter and the hind-quarter of beef, and you will see why we were continually demanding to be given our ration of one hind quarter at least every other day.

It is curious how the deficiencies of our rations were glossed over and any little luxury extolled to the skies. The pitiless publicity ceased when it came to dealing with the shortages. The fact that our army was issued white bread—an article absent from the French army and civilian ration—was widely advertised

in both France and America. One man of draft age safely ensconced in a civilian job in Paris actually ventured to criticize the sinful luxury of our men's having white bread. Would that he and those who advertised the fact could have served with our forces.

A chronic deficiency in our rations existed in our division unbroken from the time we landed in France until the time we actually got up to the trenches in February, 1918. After that time the deficiency was sporadic and due mainly to the lack of transportation and the unavoidable delays always to be found on the battlefield.

Feet Bound In Sacking.

At a maneuver at Mauvages I had the opportunity to entertain a civilian attache of the American embassy at Paris. Not until I had placed before his eyes men with their feet bound in sacking and had left him alone with the mess sergeants and cooks and let him see the pots filled with meat and food bought by personal money of our officers would he believe that such conditions could exist in the United States Army.

When our division landed in France the greater number of our men had been living the life of the ordinary civilized community. On getting into the army a huge, cumbersome weight of forty pounds was placed on their backs and they were marched over the muddy roads and fields of France. Naturally their feet swelled several sizes, and then in the cold weather they wore, if possible, several pairs of heavy socks. In my own case, when I landed in France I wore a shoe size 6½C. When I was taken to the hospital, March, 1918, I was wearing an 8½EE. My foot had increased two sizes in length and three in width.

Naturally enough the average layman did not understand those facts about the infantryman's feet and before the war our army had not been large enough for the quartermaster department to realize them. Consequently the War Department, not understanding the sudden increase in the size of feet, kept sending to France shoes which the army could not use, and by November they ceased to supply us even with shoes too small and gave us none at all. From August to November I could get no shoes at all for my men. In December we were issued a few pairs far too small for us.

T. R. Bought Their Shoes.

I find among my records that on November 25 we were sent out on a maneuver during a pelting rain by some inspector, when we were supposed to rest, and we had but one pair of worn-out shoes per man. That maneuver, and many which followed it meant that a large majority of our men never had on a pair of dry shoes. On December 15 I find I wrote home stating we could still get no shoes. On Jan. 25, however, the general staff of the A. E. F. had made such numerous complaints to Washington

that they were finally able to provide us with the authorized quota of two pairs of boots per man. However, after that sudden beneficent issue, the quartermaster forgot about us entirely for another two months.

But in the meanwhile, encouraged by the fact that when the government had been unable to buy us gloves I had been able to obtain some by writing to the United States, I had written home for 250 pairs of shoes ranging in size from 8½EE to 10EE. These were obtained at the price of \$2.50 a pair, were excellent shoes, and arrived in time to equip our soldiers for the Cantigny attack. They were paid for by my wife and my father and sent at their expense by the American Express Company.

At the same time we were told that the government could not get shoes and necessary supplies for the army on account of lack of transportation. Lack of system and lack of intelligent men in the right place would be the real explanation.

Saylorsville.

Special to the News.

Picking blackberries and cutting hay is the order of the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doss visited A. Rogers Sunday evening.

Miss Mary Reector and sister, Mrs. Marvin Smith visited Mamie Pitman one evening last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Herron visited homefolks Sunday.

G. D. Jones took dinner with A. A. Rogers Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Jones and niece visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGuire Sunday and reported a nice time.

Misses Mamie and Ruth Pitman made a flying trip to Jasper one day last week.

Walter Doss took dinner with his uncle, A. A. Rogers, last week.

Mrs. Elec Holt and sister, Mrs. Bertie Gilliam, visited their grandmother Mrs. Betsy Colston, one day last week.

D. R. Rogers and best girl were out walking Sunday.

Come on, Cousin Nettie B. Young of Flat Rock, Ala., for I sure enjoy reading your pieces. I sure would love to read a good piece in the News from Cousin D. M. Dame, of Crisp, Texas.

Miss Stella Sailors made a short call on Mary Reector one day last week.

Wonder why we don't see any more pieces in the News from "Tennessee." He must have gone to sleep and never woke up. Come on, all you good correspondents and let us make the News more interesting. Old Dina.

PIKEVILLE FISHERS CAMPING HERE

The Pikeville Fishing Club arrived here Wednesday with a full line of tents and paraphernalia, and expect to spend the week going after the finny tribe in Little Sequachee river. They are now camped at the bridge north of here, and L. N. Brown, who seems to be a leader in the expedition, assures us that they are going after the fish but "results are uncertain."

The following is the personnel of the party:

L. N. Brown, W. A. Barber, T. A. Pope, F. S. Ferguson, Geo. W. Brown, O. T. Ault.

G. L. Rogers, 721 15th St., Columbus, Ga., will read the News three months thru the kindness of his mother, Mrs. A. A. Rogers, of Jasper.

WANTS JUST SHARE ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Editor News:

Will you please allow me a little space in the News to tell a few things on the Marion County road officials.

About three years ago the bridge across Little Sequachee river at or near S. L. Brown's broke down, the same being a county bridge and awful badly needed, especially in the winter time. We have tried ever since to get the road commissioners to have it rebuilt.

We get some fair promises but no bridge. It would not be near as big a job as it was when it was first built, as the abutments are all good.

Now, this bridge is badly needed because it is the main road from Tracy City to Tatesville and Whitwell, but the roads have got so miserably bad that it is almost impossible to travel them with any kind of a vehicle. We couldn't get an overseer appointed last year and so far we have n't got any this year.

This section of road never got a lick of work last year. I paid a man \$4 to fix a few of the worst places, and this is all the work it has had this year. We haven't had a cent of road tax money on this section of road in five or six years. Of course we think it is being used on the pike and automobile roads. Now do not think I am opposed to pike roads. I am glad to see any public improvement in the county. We mountain people do not expect any pike roads, but do insist on having that part of the road funds which is justly due us.

If anybody has got an explanation to make as to what has gone with our pro rata of the road money or why we can't get a road overseer appointed we are ready to hear it, and if the present road officials do not have time to attend to the business it seems to me like they had better resign now and let somebody else try it.

ISAAC BROWN,

Box 13, Tracy City, Tenn.

CARL WOMACK BACK FROM ARMY

Carl Womack, who enlisted in the United States Navy at the outbreak of war with Germany, and who made quite a record for himself in the radio service, arrived home Monday of this week. Carl was met at Chattanooga by his uncle A. B. Womack, treasurer of the Aycock Hosiery Mills, who drove a party of relatives who had accompanied the young hero from Collinsville, Ala., back thru the country in his car. Carl has a host of friends here and throughout the valley who have watched his progress in service and who will be deeply interested in whatever he may undertake henceforth.—So. Pittsburg Hustler.

Mr. Womack is the only surviving member of the J. B. Womack family, formerly of Victoria, and highly esteemed. A picnic was held here Wednesday of last week in his honor at the Blowing Spring, but a near-drowning accident while enjoying a swim in Little Sequachee river somewhat marred the pleasure of the day. One of the very juvenile members of the party got beyond his depth, and a larger member got wet dashing in with his clothes on to rescue the youngster. The party decided that the Blowing Spring was the safest and returned there where primitive methods of drying the garments of the gentleman who got wet were used.

OFFICERS: T. G. GARRETT, Vice-Pres.
S. H. ALEXANDER, Pres. F. A. KELLY, Cashier

MARION TRUST & BANKING CO.

JASPER, TENN.

Capital, Surplus and Profits, \$ 25,000.00

Deposits, 123,000.00

We pay interest on time deposits.
Combine absolute safety with satisfactory service.
Give particular attention to business of farmers.
Invite new accounts upon our merits for strength and superior facilities.
A strong bank can accord liberal treatment to its patrons. Our past policy and ample resources are our guarantee for the future.

We Want Your Business

Arlington, Texas.

Special to the News.

Esteemed editor, I have been going from place to place so much for the last ten days I hardly know where to head this communication. I have been at Dallas since the 15th until yesterday, the 20th. There have been new arrivals everyday from overseas, and just a sluice of friends and relatives have been coming home ever since I have been here and at Dallas. I met many old friends in Dallas and spent the time very pleasantly. I spent two days and nights with my daughter, Mrs. J. G. Payne, four miles south of Dallas, and W. C. Bracken, of Dallas.

G. W. Henson, I met my old friend, the tramp, spent several hours very pleasantly with him. Was very sorry to find his better half sick. Hope she will soon recover.

At Arlington I met my two nephews from France, and a host of friends. W. H. Howard and family, of Grapevine, Texas, were at Arlington to meet Mrs. Steward's two brothers from overseas. Last night the citizens of Arlington showed their love and respect for the returning boys by giving a public reception. There were speeches of welcome, song and a band. The good ladies of Arlington had prepared a feast and at the conclusion of the program it was served and everyone went away feeling that this occasion would stand out as a bright star for us to remember as one of the pleasantest evenings of our lives. After the entertainment I went home with Mr. and Mrs. Robert O'Dell and stayed all night. This morning, before we had got up, T. S. Bracken came after me with the Brisco, and we were soon at his home five miles south of Arlington. Monday I will start for Grapevine and Denton. After staying a week or ten days I will go from there to my home at Paris, Texas.

Crops all look fine, the thrasher is in the fields now threshing one of the largest grain crops Texas has ever produced. There is so much rain it makes it pretty

hard to thresh and save the grain. Watermelons are making their appearance on the market now. Of course they are high priced. I will have to look on for a little while before I can have a watermelon feast, but it will soon come.

I am so glad to see our boys coming home. If they could get everything settled and signed up, and things to running normally so as to stop the suspense we could all rejoice more.

As the postman is about due I will have to stop. Lone Star.

Looney's Creek.

Special to the News.

The wheat crop in our community has been saved in fine shape and is in the bins ready for the mill, so we will have some biscuits, sure.

Crops are looking well, despite the dry weather, but a gentle rain is falling now, and those who are ready for it are feeling good. There is a lot of hay down taking this rain, and the unthreshed wheat and oats in the shock are injuring some; but let it rain, we need it.

There was an ice cream supper at Hick's Schoolhouse Saturday night. A large crowd was there and spent their money freely. They cleared a little over \$47.

Misses Ruth Tipton, Nan Reed, Bertha Tesgue, Myrtle and Amanda Holloway attended the county teachers' institute at Jasper last week, and some of them are attending this week also.

Sam Griffith is the champion car driver in this end of the county. Last Sunday he ran over an embankment near Uncle Joel Looney's at least four feet high and landed right side up in the creek, then ran on down the creek and came out into the road O. K. They say Sam is going to use his car as a ferryboat next year.

Misses Claytie Hackworth and Ann Martin spent Saturday night and Sunday with Bertha and Claytie Tesgue.

Mrs. Reed spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Cline, near Cedar Spring. Blue Jay.

Mrs. Lettie Moseley, wife of T. B. Mosely, died at Daus June 15, after a long illness.

**WE HAVE RECENTLY SECURED
AGENCY FOR...**

**DODGE BROS.
AUTOMOBILES**

AGENTS JACKSON COUNTY, ALA.
SEQUACHEE VALLEY.

A. R. PRYOR, Inc.
Jasper, Tenn. : Tullahoma, Tenn.

SERVICE CAR

Apply at News Office
Sequachee, Tenn.